

Amendments to the claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A database system embodied in computer-readable storage media, the database system comprising:

a database, wherein the database is a multidimensional database;

a plurality of application tools, each of the tools being configured to access data objects from the database, the tools comprising:

a business reporting tool which performs online analytical processing business reporting operations based on one or more data objects accessed from a data buffer, the business reporting tool configured to view the one or more data objects and to not make changes to the one or more data objects, and

a business planning tool, integrated with the reporting tool, which performs online analytical processing business planning operations based on the one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer, the business planning tool configured to view the one or more data objects and to change the one or more data objects;

the data buffer configured to store a copy of the one or more data objects accessed from the database; and

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a delta buffer configured to store a delta record, wherein the delta record characterizes a difference between the one or more data objects and a modified version of the one or more data objects, the modified version being a result of a change made by the business planning tool to the data objects accessed from the database, the data objects buffered in the data buffer having a logical key corresponding to the database of the data objects, a description of an aggregation level described by characteristics and key figures from which aggregates of the data object may be constructed, and a description of a selection condition representing a slice of the multidimensional database, the business reporting tool and the business planning tool requesting data from the data buffer having a specified aggregation level and a specified selection condition, the delta buffer and the data buffer providing an integrated view to the business reporting tool and the business planning tool.

2. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer is configured to generate a cumulative delta record.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and each delta record has a corresponding request identifier, and wherein the request identifier is usable by a data object to represent the one or more delta records that have been used to update a data object.

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6. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and the database system is configured to store the at least one delta record with data in the database.

7. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the data buffer and the delta buffer are parts of a system memory of a computer system.

8. (Original) A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer is configured to compress two or more delta records to generate a cumulative delta record.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
reading data from a database, wherein the database is a multidimensional database;

storing a data object in a data buffer, wherein the data object includes the data read from the database;

accessing the data object from the data buffer with one of a plurality of application tools, the tools comprising:

a business reporting tool which performs online analytical processing business reporting operations based on one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer, the business reporting tool configured to view the one or more data objects and to not make changes to the one or more data objects, and

a business planning tool, integrated with the reporting tool, which performs online analytical processing business planning operations based on

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the one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer, the business planning tool configured to view the one or more data objects and to change the one or more data objects;

storing, in a delta buffer, a delta record characterizing a difference between the data object and a modified version of the data object, the modified version being a result of a change to the data object made by one of the application tools; and

updating the data object in the data buffer with the delta record, the data object buffered in the data buffer having a logical key corresponding to the database of the data objects, a description of an aggregation level described by characteristics and key figures from which aggregates of the data object may be constructed, and a description of a selection condition representing a slice of the multidimensional database, the business reporting tool and the business planning tool requesting data from the data buffer having a specified aggregation level and a specified selection condition, the delta buffer and the data buffer providing an integrated view to the business reporting tool and the business planning tool.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:
compressing the delta buffer, wherein compressing the delta buffer includes generating a cumulative delta record.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:
storing the delta buffer in the database, wherein storing the delta buffer in the database includes integrating the one or more delta records in the delta buffer with the corresponding data in the database.

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12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:

associating the delta record with a request identifier, wherein the request identifier is usable by a data object to represent the one or more delta records that have been used to update a data object.

14. (Currently Amended) An integrated business planning and reporting platform embodied in computer-readable storage media, the platform comprising:

a database storing data, wherein the database is a multidimensional database;

a data buffer configured to store one or more data objects, wherein the at least one data object includes data read from the database;

a business reporting tool which performs online analytical processing business reporting operations based on one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer, the business reporting tool configured to view the one or more data objects and to not make changes to the one or more data objects;

a business planning tool, integrated with the reporting tool, which performs online analytical processing business planning operations based on the one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer, the business planning tool configured to view the one or more data objects and to change the one or more data objects; and

a delta buffer configured to store a delta record characterizing a difference between the one or more data objects and a modified version of the one or more data objects, the modified version being a result of a change made to the one or

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more data objects by the business reporting tool, the business planning tool, or both, the data objects buffered in the data buffer having a logical key corresponding to the database of the data objects, a description of an aggregation level described by characteristics and key figures from which aggregates of the data object may be constructed, and a description of a selection condition representing a slice of the multidimensional database, the business reporting tool and the business planning tool requesting data from the data buffer having a specified aggregation level and a specified selection condition, the delta buffer and the data buffer providing an integrated view to the business reporting tool and the business planning tool.

15. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:
a server program configured to manage the data buffer.
16. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:
a server program configured to manage the delta buffer.
17. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the reporting tool and/or planning tool generates the delta record.
18. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer stores at least one delta record and each delta record corresponds to a request identifier, wherein the request identifier represents at least one delta record that has been used to update a data object.
19. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer is configured to compress two or more delta records to generate a cumulative delta record.

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20. (Original) A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and the database system is configured to store the at least one delta record in the database, wherein storing the at least one delta record includes integrating the at least one delta record with data in the database.

21. (Canceled)